R. J. WILLINGHAM.

Rev. R. J. WILLINGHAM, pastor of the Talbotton Baptist church, besides enjoying the confidence of the community at large, is held in high esteem by his flock for his piety, his consecration to his work, and his pulpit ability. His superior educational advantages, studious habits and energy of character, inspire the hope that, with the divine blessing, he will achieve great good in the cause of the Redeemer. In addition to his own personal qualifications, he has been fortunate in securing a wife who is a cultivated, refined and pious woman, always ready to further his labors and eminently adapted to promote his success.

He was born in Beaufort district, South Carolina. May 15th. 1854. His father, Benjamin L. Willingham, and his mother,



whose maiden name was Elizabeth M. Baynard, were both devoted Baptists. Under the healthful influences of a Christian home, he was early led by the Holy Spirit to the exercise of faith in Christ. He professed conversion in August, 1867, when only thirteen years old, and was baptized by Rev. Joseph A. Lawton, into the fellowship of Concord church, in his native district. Prepared by thorough academic training, he entered the University of Georgia, at Athens, and graduated there with distinguished honor. After his graduation he taught for some time as principal of one of the public schools in Macon, where his father at that time resided. Thus there opened before him the promise of a career marked with hinor and profit. But feeling that imperative duty demanded the devotion of his life to the ministry, he relinquished these prospects and became a student in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Passing through the entire course of instruction in this institution, he was called to ordination in May, 1878, by the First Baptist church, Macon. Since that time he has been actively at work in the ministry with goodly tokens of success.

He was married. September, 1874, to Miss S. C., daughter of Colonel R. J.

590

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Bacon, of Macon, Georgia. Three lovely children have crowned this union. He is six feet two inches in height and weighs over one hundred and ninety pounds. Blessed with a vigorous constitution, fine health, a cultivated intellect and an energy that knows no limit, his future ought to be one of more than ordinary usefulness.

Dies Dec. 1914